

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 1996
Moss Landing Harbor District Office
Moss Landing, CA

Working Group members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club - Ventana Chapter); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter); Daphne White (League of Women Voters/ Pacific Grove Natural History Museum); Donna Meyers (Watershed Council); and Mark Pickett, Scott Kathey and Jane DeLay (MBNMS).

I. CWG ADMINISTRATION

1) Review Previous Meeting Minutes:

á The DRAFT minutes from the February 20, 1996 were approved as amended.

2) Set April CWG Meeting:

á The April CWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office.

3) Future Agenda Topics:

á A discussion on the impacts of Kelp Harvesting.

4) Announcements and Other meeting Dates:

á Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting -- Friday, April 26, 1996 in Half Moon Bay;
á Research Activity Panel meeting -- April 12 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at MLML Del Norte facility;
á Sanctuary Education Panel meeting -- April 18 from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the MBARI Conference Room;
á March 27-28 -- CA Biodiversity Council Conference
á April 25 -- SOS Chapter Meeting
á April 12 -- A brainstorming session to discuss long-term management of Kelp Harvesting in the Sanctuary and the uses of kelp and its impact on marine mammals. Jerry Spratt from the California Department of Fish and Game, might be involved. Other organizers include Michelle Knight, from Adventures-By-the-Sea, and Ellen Faurot-Daniels, Friends of the Sea Otter.

When questioned by CWG members about the Sanctuary's jurisdiction regarding kelp harvesting, Mark Pickett and Scott Kathey responded that harvesting is within the scope of the MBNMS. However, the State has the ability to act on this issue more quickly than the Federal agency. The Sanctuary will aid in facilitating meetings and

providing other resources.

á April 18 -- A meeting to discuss monitoring of jet ski use once the marker buoys are in place. The meeting will be in the Santa Cruz Harbor Masters Office beginning at 2:00 p.m. From this point further, the Personal Watercraft industry and jet ski users will take more of a lead in sponsoring the meetings as they are needed.

The Sanctuary office is nearly finished with the text and graphics for the brochure on the use of jet skis in the Sanctuary.

II. SANCTUARY REPORT

Mark Pickett, Assistant Manager for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, provided the following report on the Sanctuary's activities:

Research --

á The Sanctuary Currents Symposium was outstanding. Organizers have already started to plan for next year;

á Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator, Aaron King, MBNMS Program Specialists, are coordinating the McArthur cruise for this Spring. The cruise plan is expected by early the week of March 26;

á Andrew is also working on the permit process revision and the conceptualization of an Institutional Permit, or a general research permit that would be issued once a year to cover specific research activities;

Education --

á The Winter 1996 issue of the Sanctuary Newsletter is available. CWG members should expect their newsletter to arrive by mail in the next couple of weeks;

á The Spring 1996 issue is already in the production process. (Jack Wickham suggested that the newsletter have a section where letters to the Sanctuary can be included.)

á The Sanctuary Science Curriculum Guides and the Sanctuary Education Resources Directory are finished and ready for distribution. The Directory is also available on the Sanctuary's web-page. To receive a copy of the materials, please call Liz Love, MBNMS Education Coordinator, at (831) 647-4255;

á The Monterey Bay Aquarium will be publishing three books with a focus on the Sanctuary. Liz Love will be working with the Aquarium to ensure quality control;

Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) --

á The WQPP is in the final interviewing process to fill the new "Urban run-off" position. The one-year, full-time position is being supported by a grant to the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz, as well as the Coastal Commission and NOAA.

á There is a two-year contract position to work on WQPP outreach and education programs targeted toward the agricultural industry. Contact Dr. Holly Price, Director, MBNMS WQPP, at (831) 647-4247 for more information;

á The WQPP is currently arranging a number of presentations to the agriculture industry. The main goal is to try to dissuade some of the mis-perceptions that exist before drawing up strategies;

á Holly will be attending the March 20 BAY NET meeting to talk about the WQPP;

á Kip Evans, MBNMS Outreach Coordinator, is working on the final edits of a Boater education card. There will be a meeting on April 4 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office to finalize the edits to the card;

Miscellaneous --

á There was a Press Conference yesterday to discuss President Clinton's budget. The document proposes \$11.8 billion for the National Marine Sanctuary Program;

á Congressman Sam Farr introduced the Sanctuaries re-authorization bill and was

successful in finding money to assist in the operation of the California Fish and Game Vessel, the Blue Fin;

- á The Annual Chocolate Abalone dive is this weekend; Sanctuary divers will be conducting pre and post-dives to assess impact to the Sanctuary from the popular event;
- á Patrick Cotter, MBNMS Environmental Scientist, is working with Rick Starr, from Sea Grant, on the Geologic Information Survey studies being produced of the Sanctuary;
- á MBNMS Outreach Coordinator, Kip Evans, is developing a slide show designed for use by teachers grades K-12. The education material will be sold at the Aquarium;
- á The Video about the MBNMS is nearly complete and should be ready for distribution in the near future;
- á Sanctuary License Plate sales are low and CWG members are needed to help come up with ideas for marketing them. The Friends of the Sea Otter will be using the Sanctuary license plate as an incentive for attracting new members;
- á The Sanctuary is developing panoramas for display in regional airports;
- á Research in the Ford Ord former restricted zone is continuing;
- á The dredging in the Moss Landing Harbor continues to be an issue; Patrick Cotter is the Sanctuary's main point of contact;
- á The Monterey Visitors Center is displaying Sanctuary publications;
- á The Vessel Traffic Safety report is presently at NOAA headquarters. The document does not seem to be moving. CWG members offered to provide input and take measures to help speed-up the process, but were asked to wait until more is heard from NOAA headquarters;
- á Conservation groups met last week to discuss oil spill response and preparedness for the Sanctuary. Participants learned that they weren't as prepared as they thought. NOAA will take the lead in coordinating the area's oil spill response capabilities.

III. Discussion/Action: Water Quality Protection Program

At the February meeting, Holly Price presented the CWG with a list of accomplishments, goals, and areas where the CWG might be able to help the WQPP in its mission. CWG members were to think of areas where their respective organizations could participate in advocating on behalf of water quality and the WQPP.

Rachel presented the following list of priorities:

- 1) Promote Water Quality issues and the WQPP -- CWG members should talk about the WQPP as much as possible. A set of talking points, effectively capturing the program and easily inserted into written materials would be helpful for CWG members. Suggestions for the format of the talking points could be a set of bullet points, a script, and/or a slide presentation;
- 2) Produce a temporary document (e.g. newsletters) about the WQPP that could be used in the interim while the WQPP's Citizen's Guide is being developed;
- 3) Be sure to recognize the organizations that are involved with the WQPP, especially the non-profits. There is a perceived need to integrate the groups that are promoting public outreach for the WQPP;
- 4) Non-profits and conservation organizations are willing to include material about the WQPP in their newsletters and other publications. Ask the WQPP to provide material for newsletters;
- 5) Promote feature articles about the WQPP in local media such as Coast Weekly, the Monterey Times, the PG Beacon, etc. Ask the WQPP to produce some lengthy pieces that

Speak to the everyday person;

6) Promote the Monterey Bay region as a pilot for successful water quality protection efforts. The CWG agreed that a letter be drafted to the Regional Board requesting the dedication of staff to the Program. Rachel and Donna Meyers will draft the letter on behalf of the Working Group;

7) The CWG is participating in WQPP strategy making sessions and will continue to do so;

8) The CWG and its member organizations can assist NOAA in distributing WQPP educational materials such as brochures and posters;

9) Develop a "Green Sticker" reward program for business and industry working with the WQPP. Consider expanding the Sanctuary Currents Awards Ceremony to include the business community;

10) Sponsor water quality monitoring workshops for volunteers and work to improve volunteer networks to promote Sanctuary-wide standards and reporting. Link the training with agency needs as well as the interests of the RAP in securing a long-term monitoring program for the area (e.g. the State Mussel Watch Program).

CWG members agreed to ask Holly Price to discuss current monitoring practices and where they stand in terms of government and industry monitoring.

11) Produce a "Stewardship Guide." A small citizen-oriented "yellow pages" for the public on volunteer opportunities (in outreach, monitoring, etc.).

12) Prompt writers to tackle water quality education on a national level in journals, magazines, and newspapers. Encourage the overall topic. Focus on any opportunity to have writers describe the integration efforts and success of the MBNMS WQPP.

In summary, the CWG agreed to focus on item #10 and explore potential collaboration at the next meeting.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

Scott Kathey, MBNMS Program Specialist, and Mark Pickett briefed CWG members on the details of proposed enforcement activities in the Sanctuary.

The proposed enforcement plan attacks the issue on different levels: 1) Scott has been appointed the Sanctuary's Enforcement Coordinator and will be responsible for juxtapositioning all of the Sanctuary's enforcement assets; 2) the NOAA Corps has access to a fleet of aircraft, one of which may be assigned to the California Marine Sanctuaries and the Olympic Coast Sanctuary and will be stationed in Monterey. Along with a pilot, this aircraft will greatly enhance the Sanctuary's emergency response capabilities; 3) enforcement coordination efforts between the Sanctuary, the Coast Guard, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game are continuing on a regular basis. Memorandums of Understanding between the agencies will soon solidify the relationship; 4) funds from an anonymous donor will support the purchase of three Rigid Hull Inflatables, and the human resources needed to support their use for the next three years. The vessels will be stationed at Half Moon Bay, Santa Cruz, and Cambria, and will be operated by the California Department of Fish and Game. The vessels are flexible and can be shifted when needed. Scott commented that Monterey was covered by the presence of the Coast Guard, the Sanctuary boat and plane, and the CDFG

Vessel, the Bluefin.

Sanctuary officials and associated agencies are convinced that this basic framework will provide adequate enforcement coverage and the donor has expressed support for the draft plan and proposed MOUs.

Comments on the plan from CWG members were recorded as follows:

- á Suggest the creation of enforcement working group through the Sanctuary Advisory Council to identify hot spots in the Sanctuary that require an enforcement presence;
- á Train the patrols to educate about the Sanctuary as well as enforcing regulations;
- á With respect to violations, CWG members requested that funds earned from fines be used to support the Sanctuary;
- á CWG members suggested that the Enforcement Coordinator institute some kind of system for tracking and recording enforcement actions, something that Scott Kathey is to initiate.

VII. MISC. UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS

1) Sanctuary Program Reauthorization Hearing -- The Reauthorization hearing on the Sanctuaries Act is Thursday, March 21; the Center for Marine Conservation is sending Tom LaHue to testify and do some work on Capitol Hill. Congressman Sam Farr has introduced legislation supporting the Act and providing a mechanism for the MBNMS to market the license plates, logo, and other items.

2) Shark hearing -- the public hearing was lightly attended and business was concluded in about 45 minutes. None of the vendors for shark chumming made an appearance. There was strong support for a prohibition on this activity.

3) CWG Comments on the Sanctuary Symposium --

- á encourage more public interaction at next year's symposium;
- á find speakers who are better at crossing disciplines and give the public the thumbs-up on how to make a difference;
- á consider awards to the press for positive reporting about the Sanctuary.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator
CWG Meeting - 3/19/96
FINAL Minutes